

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/572,797

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of January 22, 2009 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 6 - 11 have been re-examined with the following result: (1) claims 6 - 8 and 10 are objected to ; and (2) claims 9 and 11 are rejected, with claim 9 rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over AAPA in view of Matby, and claim 11 rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over AAPA in view of Matby and Lee.

(1)

Claims 6 - 8 and 10 are indicated as being "allowable over the prior art of record if amended as suggested in paragraph 2 above." Accordingly, claims 6 - 8 and 10 have been amended as suggested by the examiner in paragraph 2 of the Office Action, thereby placing claims 6 - 8 and 10 in prima facie condition for allowance.

(2)

Regarding the rejections of claims 9 and 11, applicant has amended claims 9 to include the subject matter of claim 11. As such, the rejection of claim 9 is obviated. There remains for consideration the rejection of claim 11 (claim 9 as now amended). This rejection is respectfully traversed..

The examiner states, and correctly, that the AAPA discloses a sensor module and a sensor module head "which can be plugged together." The sensor module comprises a Ph sensor, which, as all pH sensors, has a particular

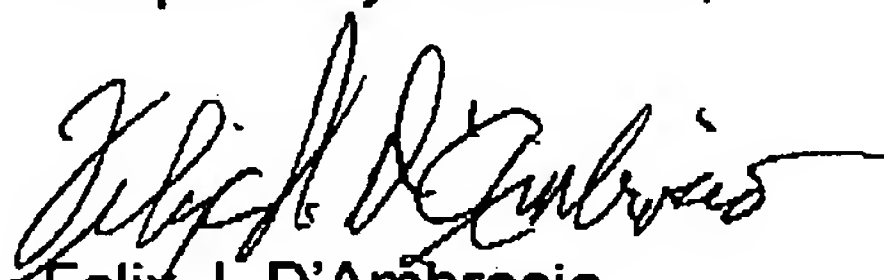
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purpose. The examiner further states that Lee makes it obvious to render the pluggable module as a key ring pendant because Lee teaches "...the use of plug in modules held by key rings." Lee does teach using a key ring assembly 24 and that a rechargeable module 22 is connected to the key ring assembly. But a rechargeable module is not a pH sensor, first of all. Then too, we must not dismiss the remaining disclosure of Lee. That is, Lee states that the rechargeable module 22 serves as a flashlight or for reading maps. An endeavor that is totally unlike a pH sensor. Why would the person of ordinary skill in the pH sensor art consult Lee for any reason let alone a specific reason of adapting each module including the pH sensor as key ring pendants? The answer is not apparent from a reading of Lee, and accordingly, applicant is of the opinion that it would not be obvious to modify the teachings of AAPA or Matby with the teaching of Lee.

In summary, claims 6 - 8 and 10 are now in *prima facie* condition for allowance, and claim 9 as amended to include the subject matter of claim 11 should also be allowed because the combination of AAPA, Matby and Lee is not sustainable when one considers how different the AAPA and Matby are from Lee.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and claim 9 as now amended, which is nothing more than claim 11, now cancelled, should be allowed along with claims 6 - 8 and 10.

Respectfully submitted,


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